

REMARKS

Claims 12-15 and 17-22 are pending. Claims 1-11, 16, 23 and 24 are canceled herein with this response. Applicants note with appreciation the provisional allowance of claims 16-19 and 23.

Claim 12 has been amended into independent form including all the limitations of provisionally allowed claim 16. Claim 20 has been amended into independent form including all the limitations of provisionally allowed claim 23. Reconsideration of the application in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-11 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1-11 have been canceled with this response thus rendering the issue moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 12, 13, 20, AND 21 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 12, 13, 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,724,358 (Headrick et al.). Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

Claim 12 has been amended with all the limitations of provisionally allowed claim 16 and is believed to be in condition for allowance. Claim 20 has been amended with all the limitations of provisionally allowed claim 23 and is believed to be in condition for allowance. Claim 13 is dependent on claim 12 and claim 21 is dependent on claim 20 which is believed to be in condition for allowance. Therefore claims 13 and 20 are believed to be in condition for allowance as well. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 14, 15, AND 22 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 14, 15, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,724,358 (Headrick et al.). Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

Claims 14 and 15 depend upon claim 12 which is believed to be in condition for allowance and add further limitations thereto. Claim 22 depends upon claim 20 which is believed to be in condition for allowance and adds further limitations thereto. Therefore claims 14, 15, and 22 are believed to be in condition for allowance as well. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. CONCLUSION

For at least the above reasons, the claims currently under consideration are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Should any fees be due as a result of the filing of this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the Deposit Account Number 50-1733, AMDP762US.

Respectfully submitted,
ESCHWEILER & ASSOCIATES, LLC

By /Thomas G. Eschweiler/
Thomas G. Eschweiler
Reg. No. 36,981

National City Bank Building
629 Euclid Avenue, Suite 1000
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
(216) 502-0600